

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A device for operating a lock assembly, comprising:
 - a member having a first position and a second position, wherein the member
5 has structure adapted to cooperate with the lock assembly; and
 - a handle having a first position representing an unlocked position and a second position representing a locked position,
 - wherein the handle is operably and adjustably connected to the member such that the first position of the handle when the member is in the first position is the same as the first position of the handle when the member is in the second position.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the second position of the handle when the member is in the first position is the same as the second position of the handle when the member is in the second position.
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3. The device of claim 1 wherein the handle first position represents an unlocked position and the handle second position represents a handle locked position.
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4. The device of claim 3 wherein in the unlocked position, the handle has a generally vertical configuration
5. The device of claim 1 wherein in the locked position, the handle has a generally horizontal configuration.
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6. The device of claim 1 wherein in the member first position, the member structure is adapted to cooperate with the lock assembly configured for a right hand door.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein in the member second position, the member structure is adapted to cooperate with the lock assembly configured for a left hand door.

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8. The device of claim 1 wherein the second position of the handle is rotationally displaced from the first position of the handle.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein the second position of the handle is rotationally 10 displaced 90 degrees from the first position of the handle.

10. The device of claim 8 wherein the second position of the handle is rotationally displaced less than 90 degrees from the first position of the handle.

15 11. The device of claim 1 wherein the member first position is offset from a vertical axis.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein the member second position is offset from a vertical axis in a direction opposite the member first position.

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13. The device of claim 11 wherein the member first position is offset generally 45 degrees from the vertical axis.

25 14. The device of claim 11 wherein the member first position is offset generally 30 degrees from the vertical axis.

15. The device of claim 12 wherein the member second position is offset generally 45 degrees from the vertical axis.
16. The device of claim 12 wherein the member second position is offset generally 30 degrees from the vertical axis.
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17. The device of claim 1 wherein the member has a generally rectangular cross-section adapted to cooperate with an aperture of a lock member of the lock assembly.
- 10 18. The device of claim 1 wherein the handle is a thumbturn.
19. The device of claim 1 wherein the handle has a first aperture and a second aperture, the member being connected to the handle by a fastener positioned in the first aperture to define the member first position, and the member being connected to the handle by a fastener positioned in the second aperture to define the member second position.
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20. A device for operating a lock assembly, the device comprising:
a member having a first position and a second position, the member having structure adapted to cooperate with the lock assembly; and
a handle having a first position and a second position, the handle being operably and adjustably connected to the member when the member is in one of the member first position and the member second position,
such that the first position of the handle when the member is in the first
20 position is the same as the first position of the handle when the member is in the second position.
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21. The device of claim 20 wherein the second position of the handle when the member is in the first position is the same as the second position of the handle when the member is in the second position.

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22. A device for operating a lock assembly, the lock assembly having a first configuration when mounted in a right hand door and a second configuration when mounted in a left hand door, the device comprising:

a handle having a first position and a second position; and

10 a member operably connected to the handle, the member having structure adapted to cooperate with the lock assembly such that the first position of the handle when the member is adapted to be connected to the lock assembly in the first configuration is the same as the first position of the handle when the member is adapted to be connected to the lock assembly in the second configuration.

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23. The device of claim 22 wherein the second position of the handle when the member is adapted to be connected to the lock assembly in the first configuration is the same as the first position of the handle when the member is adapted to be connected to the lock assembly in the second configuration.

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24. A handle assembly for operating a lock assembly, the lock assembly having a housing supporting a lock member, the lock member having a generally rectangular aperture offset from a vertical axis and accessible through the housing, the lock assembly having a first configuration when mounted in a right hand door and a second configuration when mounted in a left hand door, the handle assembly comprising:

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a handle having a first position defining an unlocked position and a second position defining a locked position, the handle having a stem, the stem having a first aperture offset from a vertical axis and a second aperture offset from the vertical axis; and

5 a tailpin having a generally rectangular cross-section, the tailpin having a tailpin opening, the tailpin being received by the stem and adjustably and operably connected to the handle by a screw positioned through one of the first stem aperture and second stem aperture and through the tailpin opening, wherein the tailpin is adapted to be received by the aperture of the lock member wherein when the lock assembly is in the first configuration, the tailpin is connected to the handle by the screw positioned through the first stem aperture and when the lock assembly is in the second configuration, the tailpin is connected to the handle by the screw positioned through the second stem aperture wherein the handle first position when the lock assembly is in the first configuration is the same as the handle first position when the lock assembly is in the second configuration and the handle second position when the lock assembly is in the first configuration is the same as the handle second position when the lock assembly is in the second configuration.

25. A device for operating a lock assembly, the lock assembly having a lock member, the lock member having a lock member aperture, the lock assembly having a first configuration when mounted in a right hand door and a second configuration when mounted in a left hand door, the device comprising:

20 a handle further having a first aperture and a second aperture; and
25 a tailpin having a first position wherein the tailpin is connected to the handle by a fastener positioned through the first aperture, wherein the tailpin is adapted to be received by the lock member aperture when the lock assembly is in the first

configuration wherein the handle has a vertical position defining an unlocked position, and the handle has a horizontal position defining a locked position,
the tailpin being adjustable to a second position wherein the tailpin is connected to the handle by the fastener positioned through the second aperture, wherein the tailpin is adapted to be received by the lock member aperture when the lock assembly is in the second configuration wherein the handle is in the vertical position in the unlocked position, and the handle is in the horizontal position defining the locked position wherein the lock member engages the keeper.

- 5 26. A device for operating a lock assembly, comprising:
10 a member having a first position and a second position, wherein the member is cooperatively dimensioned and adapted to engage the lock assembly;
 a handle having a first position representing an unlocked position and a second position representing a locked position; and,
15 an adapter adjustably connecting the handle and the member, such that the first position of the handle when the member is in the first position is the same as the first position of the handle when the member is in the second position.
- 20 27. The device of claim 26 wherein the cross-section of the member is a quadrilateral.
- 25 28. The device of claim 26 wherein the cross-section of the member is a rectangle.
29. The device of claim 26 wherein the adapter further has a slot adapted to receive the member.

30. The device of claim 29 further comprising a fastener adapted to retain the member in the slot.

31. The device of claim 30 wherein the fastener is a screw.

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32. A device for operating one of a first or second lock assembly, each lock assembly having a lock member, the device comprising:

a handle having a first position representing an unlocked position and a second position representing a locked position, the handle having a tailpin extending therefrom, the tailpin having a first position in which it is adapted to be connected to the first lock assembly and a second position in which it is adapted to be connected to the second lock assembly, wherein the handle is operably and adjustably connected to the tailpin such that the first position of the handle when the tailpin is in the first position is the same as the first position of the handle when the tailpin is in the second position.

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33. A device for operating one of a first or second lock assembly, each lock assembly having a lock mechanism, the device comprising:

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a handle having a first unlocked position, the handle having a slot; a tailpin inserted into the slot of the handle, the tailpin having a first angular position and a second position, the tailpin adapted to engage the lock member of the first lock assembly when the tailpin is in the first angular position, the tailpin adapted to engage the lock member of the second lock assembly when the tailpin is in the second angular position, the tailpin adjustable such that the handle is in the first unlocked position when the tailpin is in either the first or second angular positions.

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